

KANEGASAKI SISTER CITY COMMITTEE
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
February 17th, 2010
4:00 PM Senior Center Alice Dowd Lounge

Members Present: Jule Dupre (Interim Chair), Kathy Woods Masalski, Nancy Bess, Yuko Takahashi, Florence Boynton, Nancy Pagano, Aaron Kropf, Amy Springer

Others: Aaron Hayden, (Select Board Liaison)

Members Absent: Byron Koh, Helen MacMellon, Bill Hutchinson, Stephanie Joyce, Denise Boyd

Minutes of January 19, 2010: Accepted as read.

Treasurer's Report: Florence reported that there is \$1455.63 in the KSCC account at Town Hall.

Continuing Business:

- **MARCH VISIT OF KANEGASAKI MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS**

- *Schedule is changing.** Denise is on mid-winter break so there was just a short reminder that the Kanegasaki middle school students are leaving for NYC on Saturday after bowling instead of on Sunday AM. As a result of this Jule's potluck will be on Thursday and the farewell dinner will be on Friday eve. Details about all this will be discussed at length at our March 2nd meeting when Denise is home again.

- *Press release.** Amy will write a press release about the Kanegasaki students' visit to send to the paper to coincide with their visit.

- *Banner.** The DPW said that no one has reserved space for a banner over South Pleasant St. by the Town Common for the week our Kanegasaki visitors are here. Amy made a tentative reservation then looked into costs for the banner. For the DPW to hang and remove the banner: \$80. Cost to make the banner: Nancy P went to Copy Cat and was quoted \$495 for a 2' x 20' banner, \$625 for 2' x 30' banner. Aaron also got a quote from Sunraise also for \$500. Kathy said she would send Amy the name of a place in Holyoke that might do it. Thoughts for wording on the banner: Something without a date on it so it can be reused and that welcomes "visitors from Kanegasaki, Japan, our sister city" or something along those lines. A discussing ensued on whether it was worth it to spend this much money. Several people thought it would be a good investment. Florence was concerned about spending such a large amount with no fundraising plan to defray the cost. All agreed fundraising was a good idea, but that there wouldn't be time to do it before the money would have to be spent. There was some question about whether the DPW fee could be waived for the KSCC because we are a Town committee. Aaron H. and Nancy P will look into it. A motion was made to spend up to \$600 toward purchasing a banner and getting it hung. Amy (and Aaron) will look into best pricing and options for the banner.

- **KSCC INFORMATIONAL AND FUNDRAISING BROCHURE**

- Jule will have 500 flyers printed in a pastel, which she will bring to the next meeting and which we will pass out in various places.

- Aaron H. volunteered to establish a database to mail these out. Members will send him lists of names and address to be included. (Reminder from previous meeting.)

- **ARCHIVES**

- Kathy reported on her conversations re archives with Bonnie Isman and Tevis Kimball of the Jones Library. She summarized two documents, "Deed of Gift" and "A Guide to Donating Your Organizational Records to a Repository" and asked the KSCC for the O.K. to begin a list of categories documents and artifacts that might be included in the donation. The Committee approved and Kathy agreed to report progress at a future meeting. Copies of the documents were left with Nancy P., who took notes of the meeting for Byron, who was unable to attend the meeting.

- **UPDATE FROM RECENT RESEARCH ON QUESTIONS RAISED AT LAST KSCC MEETING**

- * **Display Case.** Nancy P checked and reported on its contents. The case is not locked, so no special access is needed to work on it. Aaron K will work on cleaning and dusting this week. Aaron H and Nancy P will help provide photos from their October '09 trip. Anything removed will be passed on to Kathy for archives.

- * **"Taste of Japan".** This was an event at UMass for a couple of years, but is not a continuing program. Committee members are encouraged to keep an eye out for other Japanese cultural events where the KSCC might have a booth.

- * **Cherry Trees.** Aaron H. contacted the Tree Warden and found that there are, in fact, many Kanegasaki-donated cherry trees still growing in Amherst (not only one as some of us had feared.) He has located at least five and will follow up on others. Plans are to put a plaque on the tree in Sweetzer Park and smaller labels on all other existent trees.

- **CHIBI ANIME CLUB.** There are currently 5 members, including a long-distance one from Maryland. There have been three Japanese classes taught, which also include practice sentences for use with the Kanegasaki students. The Club members are in the process of arranging classes with two students of Japanese from Amherst College via Aaron Hayden and Prof. Tawa. These classes are covered by a community services program arranged by Amherst College.

Kathy asked about liability issues that might be related to the KSCC's involvement in a club that is not affiliated with the Amherst Schools. Aaron H. and Amy S. assured the Committee that since Amherst College students are involved as tutors, Amherst College assumes liability as part of its community outreach program.

New Business:

- **Protocol Issues**

The KSCC is delighted with the idea that our Committee would be a resource for people who want to visit Japan to come for information and support (and eventually to join), but the Committee doesn't feel it needs to exercise its special relationship with Kanaegasaki unless it is judged that it will help that relationship. The Committee's charge and focus is about cultural exchange between officials and students in Amherst. We can be up front with unknown community petitioners on this in declining to send an introduction, yet also STILL be helpful with sharing our experiences and knowledge.

- **Leadership.** Amy will be Interim Chair for March, 2010. Elections will take place in April.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting ended at about 5:20 PM. The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday, March 2nd, at 4 PM in the Alice Dowd Lounge of the Amherst Senior Center.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Pagano, Acting Secretary (with contributions by Aaron Hayden, Amy Springer, Kathy Woods Masalski, Jule Dupre)